HAL VERB'S NOTES ON INTERVIEW (VIDEO)
OF ROBERT J. VINCENT (BASED ON
A VIDEO SHOWN BY ATTORNEY JAMES P. JOHNSTON

(INTRODUCTION: ON SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1996 WHILE ATTENDING A LANCER JFK CONFERENCE IN DALLAS I WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A VIDEO SHOWING OF A ROBERT J. VINCENT MADE BY ATTORNEY JAMES JOHNSTON. ACCORDING TO MR. JOHNSTON THE VIDEO WAS MADE ON SATURDAY, NOV. 2[redacted], 1996. MY INVITATION TO VIEW THE VIDEO WAS DUE TO DEBRA CONWAY WHO SAID SHE SELECTED CERTAIN PERSONS TO ATTEND. I ASKED DEBRA IF MY FRIEND, PAUL HALLER, COULD ATTEND & SHE GAVE PERMISSION TO HIM.)

MR. VINCENT STATED THAT HIS OCCUPATION FOR 20 YEARS HAD BEEN WITH THE AIR FORCE SINCE 1946. HE SAID HE HAD ENTERED THE ARMY & THEN WENT TO THE AIR FORCE AND SERVED UP TO SEPT. 30, 1966. HE THEN WENT TO WORK FOR WICHITA CIM & ~~RETIRED~~ RETIRED IN 1987. (I DON'T RECALL WHAT THE INITIALS "CIM" STAND FOR). HE HAD SERVED IN JAPAN, OKINAWA & KOREA. HE WAS A 1ST SERGEANT IN KOREA (1952) & GOT AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE AIR FORCE.

VINCENT HAD A PILOT'S LICENSE THOUGH HE DIDN'T TAKE THE FINAL EXAM. IN THE LATTER PART OF 1962 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO N.A.D.C (NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMAND) IN COLORADO SPRINGS & IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, HE SAID THIS WAS DURING THE TIME OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION.

ON WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19, 1963 VINCENT WAS ASKED TO BRING HIS PERSONNEL RECORD TO THE PENTAGON ON WHY HE DIDN'T RECEIVE A PROMOTION. (NOTE= PAUL HALLER POINTED OUT TO ME THAT NOV. 19, 1963 WASN'T WEDNESDAY BUT TUESDAY BUT THIS COULD BE AN HONEST MISTAKE BY VINCENT). VINCENT SAID THAT ON THURSDAY (I PRESUME HE MEANT NOV. 20, 1963 BUT IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY HE MEANT WEDNESDAY & NOT THURSDAY) HE WENT TO SEE CONGRESSMAN JONES WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF A PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE. VINCENT MENTIONED ALSO A COL. CHAPMAN WHO WAS A LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE PENTAGON. (I'M SURE ALL THESE NAMES CAN BE CHECKED OUT & VERIFIED IF AUTHENTICALLY PRESENTED AS I'M SURE OF VINCENT'S CREDIBILITY).

VINCENT REFERRED TO JONES AS JIMMY JONES AND SAID HE BELIEVED JONES WAS A CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO. WHILE VINCENT WAS THERE JONES WAS ON THE PHONE & ONLY HEARD JONES' SIDE OF THE PHONE CONVERSATION. JONES [redacted] SAID, "I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE PRESIDENT NOT GO TO DALLAS.", VINCENT SAID. "I JUST PASSED IT (JONES COMMENT) OFF AT THAT TIME." VINCENT TOOK A CAB AT THE PENTAGON.

APPARENTLY SOMEONE SAW VINCENT'S RECORDS (WHILE AT THE PENTAGON). HE WAITED 15 TO 20 MINUTES & THE COLONEL SAID, "WE'LL LOOK INTO THIS."

VINCENT SAID HE THEN HAD DINNER & TOLD HIS WIFE (I ASSUME HE PHONED HER) & TOLD HER HE WOULD CATCH A FLIGHT OUT AT ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE FOR FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 1963. VINCENT SAID IT WAS CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL TO USE ANDREWS.

VINCENT SAID HE HAD ASKED ABOUT FLIGHTS OUT OF ANDREWS AND THEY TOLD VINCENT — NO — WE'RE NOT TAKING ANY FLIGHTS OUT TODAY (I'M UNCERTAIN IF VINCENT MEANT THURSDAY, NOV. 21 OR FRIDAY, NOV. 22 BUT THE DATE IS CRUCIAL).

AS VINCENT WAS EATING BREAKFAST HE HEARD HIS NAME OVER A LOUD-SPEAKER. HE WAS TOLD TO TAKE A C-54 TO AN AIR FORCE BASE IN COLORADO. (I COULDN'T QUITE MAKE OUT THE NAME OF THE CITY BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE LARIOPPE OR LOWERY). VINCENT SAID THE C-54 WAS A 4-ENGINE CARGO PLANE.

VINCENT SAID THERE WERE NO EMBLEMS ON THE PLANE IDENTIFYING IT BUT IT WAS WHITE-COLORED. HE SAID THERE WERE MEN DRESSED IN COVER ALLS WHO CAME ON BOARD BUT THAT NOTHING WAS SAID TO HIM. VINCENT SAID, "THAT WAS KIND OF UNUSUAL". THEY CLOSED THE COCKPIT DOOR BEHIND THEM AND TOOK OFF. VINCENT SAID THE PLANE LEFT ANDREWS AT ABOUT 8:30 AM TO 9 AM.

ON THE LOUD-SPEAKER VINCENT SAID HE HEARD THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT AT 12:29. (I RECALL THAT WHEN SPEAKING TO SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT THIS TIME FIGURE IT WAS NOT THE USUAL 12:30 FIGURE. I SPECULATED THAT THE TIME COULD HAVE COME FROM SOMEONE WHO WAS RIGHT THERE IN DEALEY PLAZA AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION AND LOOKED UP AT THE HERTZ CLOCK WHICH DID SHOW THAT TIME. A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THIS TO BE THE CASE WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BUT LITTLE KNOWN).

VINCENT SAID "WE TURNED TO THE LEFT ABOUT 90 DEGREES AND WENT TO THE SOUTH -- RATHER ABRUPT -- I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE WE WERE GOING". VINCENT SAID THAT AFTER LOOKING IT OVER, HE THOUGHT IT WAS DALLAS. HE SAID "WE DID A TURN TO THE RIGHT AND THEN A TURN TO THE LEFT" AND HE SAW WHERE THEY HAD DONE CONSTRUCTION. VINCENT SAID HE KNEW DALLAS "PRETTY WELL".

THE PLANE LANDED AND STOPPED ABOUT TEN MINUTES. TWO GENTLEMEN GOT ON THE PLANE. ONE WAS LATIN, POSSIBLY CUBAN AND THE OTHER CAUCASIAN. ONE WAS 6 FOOT 2 INCHES AND

HE ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 190 TO 200 POUNDS. THEY HAD BEIGE LIKE COVERALLS AND A BELT TIED IN FRONT WHICH HE SAID WAS "KIND OF" BEIGE COLOR. THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL WAS MUCH SHORTER AND "KIND OF" SKINNY WITH BLACK HAIR AND ABOUT 155 POUNDS. VINCENT SAID THAT 20 FEET FROM THE BACK OF THE DOOR THERE WAS A ROAD JEEP WHICH WAS A "KIND OF" YELLOW COLOR. VINCENT SAID THERE WAS A PERSON WHO LOOKED "AN AWFUL LOT LIKE OSWALD" AND AGAIN NOTED THAT "NO ONE SPOKE TO ME." (IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE OSWALD LOOK-ALIKE IS ONE OF THE 2 MEN WHO GOT ON THE PLANE OR ONE OF THE OTHERS ALREADY ON THE PLANE BUT I'M SURE VINCENT CAN CLARIFY THIS).

VINCENT SAID THERE WAS NO CREW CHIEF AND THAT THE C-54 WENT TO ROSWELL AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO AND THAT IT LANDED ABOUT DUSK. "THEY NEVER SAID A WORD TO ME", VINCENT REPEATED.

VINCENT THEN WENT TO A BUILDING AND THERE WAS AN MP THERE. HE ASKED THE MP, "HOW CAN I GET TO DOWNTOWN AND CATCH A BUS?" THE MP REPLIED, "YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE—THIS BASE IS PLACED UNDER ALERT. YOU CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL THE ALERT IS OVER!" THE MP, HE SAID, REQUESTED NO IDENTIFICATION OF VINCENT (MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE VINCENT WAS TOLD TO LEAVE). VINCENT SAID HE WAITED UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK AND THEN CALLED HIS WIFE (NEAR THE GATE). THERE WAS AN 11 P.M. BUS TO COLORADO SPRINGS AND HE ARRIVED THERE SATURDAY MORNING.

ON THE VIDEO VINCENT POINTED TO AN AERIAL PHOTO MAP OF WHERE HE BELIEVED THE PLANE LANDED. THE LOCATION, HE SAID, WAS NEAR THE TRINITY RIVER. HE THEN LOCATED ON A STREET MAP THE LOCATION WITH YELLOW MARKING WHERE THE C-54 LANDED.

VINCENT SAID (AFTER THIS EVENT) HE WENT TO WORK ON MONDAY (I ASSUME NOV. 25, 1963) AND WENT THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS NOT THINKING ANYTHING MORE ABOUT WHAT HE DID. HE SAID HE TOLD HIS WIFE THAT TWO PEOPLE LOOKED "A LOT LIKE OSWALD" (THE ONES WE PICKED UP IN DALLAS"). IT IS MY BELIEF THEN THAT VINCENT'S DESCRIPTION OF AN OSWALD LOOK-ALIKE (NOTED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH ABOVE) HAS TO REFER TO THE TWO MEN GETTING ABOARD AND NOT ANY INDIVIDUALS IN THE PLANE FROM THIS LATTER STATEMENT.

VINCENT SAID "THEY (I'M NOT SURE WHO HE'S REFERRING TO) MADE A BIG DEAL OF MY PROMOTION" AT AN AIR FORCE BASE AROUND MAY, 1964. A NEIGHBOR, VINCENT SAID, ASKED "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? PEOPLE ARE ASKING QUESTIONS." (HERE I ASSUME VINCENT MAY BE REFERRING TO FBI AGENTS CHECKING UP ON HIM. THIS WOULD MAKE SENSE IF YOU'LL CONSIDER MY ANALYSIS OF WHAT I BELIEVE IS BEHIND ALL THESE EVENTS. SEE MY COMMENTS AT THE END).

VINCENT SAID A CAPTAIN COLE GAVE US SOME DOCUMENTS TO SIGN WHICH HE BELIEVED RELATED TO HIS RECORDS. VINCENT SAID HE HAD A CRYPTO CLEARANCE WHICH WAS FOR NORAD HANDLING OF TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS. APPARENTLY THE CAPTAIN WANTED VINCENT TO SIGN A SECRECY DOCUMENT BUT HIS WIFE DIDN'T WANT TO SIGN IT. SHE ASKED, "WHY" DOES SHE HAVE TO SIGN IT AND THE CAPTAIN SAID, "WELL, THEY ASKED (FOR IT)." SHE FINALLY RELENTED AND SIGNED IT.

THE ORDER, VINCENT SAID, WAS FOR VINCENT TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON, D.C. THE ORDER HAD JUST A PHONE NUMBER ON IT AND A NUMBER 10 IN THE LOWER RIGHT CORNER. THE VIDEO SHOWS VINCENT HANDLING THE DOCUMENT BUT VINCENT SAID IT WAS A COPY AND NOT THE ORIGINAL. THE ORDER WAS DATED NOVEMBER 25, 1964. (AT THIS POINT IN THE VIDEO MY NOTES SHOW A REFERENCE TO "SUNDAY AFTERNOON—ARRIVE ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE AND ANOTHER REFERENCE TO "PETERSON FIELD". I'M NOT CERTAIN HOW THESE FIT IN.)

VINCENT WAS TO REPORT TO THE FIRST BARRACKS IN FORT MEYER, VIRGINIA AND TOLD THAT A BUS WOULD BE THERE TOMORROW MORNING AT 8 O'CLOCK. HE WAS TOLD TO BE ON IT AND THEN GO TO D.C.

VINCENT TOOK THE BUS AND THE OTHER GENTLEMEN GOT ON. "SOME NAVY, ARMY, CIVILIAN" IS HOW HE DESCRIBED THEM. HE DROVE OUT TO LANGLEY (CIA HEADQUARTERS). HE SAID "THEY TOOK US" TO THIS ONE ROOM (IT WAS A TWO-STORY BUILDING). HE BELIEVED HE WENT TO THE 2ND FLOOR. THEY STARTED TESTING US WITH A WRITTEN EXAMINATION. VINCENT SAID HE OBSERVED A SIGN THAT READ = "THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA—KEEP OUT."

HE SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 400 QUESTIONS OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL NATURE. THE TESTING TOOK ABOUT 4 HOURS

AND THEN HE TOOK A PHYSICAL. HE SAID THEY FED US IN A CAFETERIA. HE COMMENTED, "THEY WERE ABOUT AS STUNNED AS I WAS." (I ASSUME HE WAS REFERRING TO THE OTHERS BEING TESTED, ETC.).

VINCENT SAID THERE WERE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND A "TOUGH" PHYSICAL. THEY GAVE HIM A LIE-DETECTOR TEST AND MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING AND MORE PHYSICAL TESTS.

HE NOTED A TIME (1 PM) AND SAID THERE WAS A BIG TABLE "SHAPED AS A U" AND THAT THE ROOM WAS A "REAL LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM". IT WAS "DARK", HE SAID. "YOU COULDN'T SEE THEM BUT THEY COULD SEE YOU".

HE WAS ASKED, "WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH US?" AND VINCENT REPLIED, "NO". HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WANTED TO RETIRE IN COLORADO SPRINGS. THEY REPLIED, "WE'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE" BUT, AGAIN, VINCENT SAID NO.

HE SAID HE THEN WENT TO AN AIRPORT IN SOUTH BALTIMORE. HE HAD A TICKET AND WENT BACK TO COLORADO SPRINGS. IT WAS A COMMERCIAL PLANE AND NOT A MILITARY ONE.

VINCENT SAID HE HAD GATHERED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PERSONNEL FROM 1954 TO 1955 SO HE WAS AWARE HE WAS AT A CIA FACILITY. THE SIGN SAID "LANGLEY, VA." ON THE HIGHWAY.

AFTER THIS (HE'S PROBABLY REFERRING TO HIS REFUSAL) VINCENT SAID, "I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS PRETTY MUCH SETTLED." HE SAID HIS WIFE TOLD HIM NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS. HE COMMENTED (OR PERHAPS HIS WIFE) "THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF PEOPLE ELIMINATED". (THIS LATTER REMARK, I ASSUME, REFERRED TO THE SO-CALLED "MYSTERY DEATHS" IN THE JFK CASE).

IN FEBRUARY, 1965 VINCENT SAID HE RECEIVED AN ORDER DATED FEB. 20, 1965 TO REPORT TO LAS VEGAS AND CALL A CERTAIN PHONE NUMBER. VINCENT WAS

OF THE OPINION THAT IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CIA.

THIS TIME VINCENT PUT HIS HOUSE UP FOR SALE AND SOLD IT "WITHIN ONE WEEK"! OBVIOUSLY HE ACCEPTED THE ORDER BECAUSE HE SAID HE KEPT CALLING THE PHONE NUMBER BUT GOT NO ANSWER. FINALLY HE GOT THE NAME OF ANOTHER MOTEL AND ALL EXPENSES PAID FOR. "WE WERE THERE FOR ABOUT 3 OR 4 DAYS" AND SOMEONE FINALLY CONTACTED HIM.

VINCENT SAID HE WENT TO A HOUSE. THERE WAS A SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT WHO TOLD HIM IT WAS A CIA PROJECT AND "THEY ENDED UP GIVING ME A BADGE". HE THEN WENT TO ANOTHER GATE (SAME 4 OR 5 GATES INVOLVED) AND EXCHANGED BADGES AT EACH GATE.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS THE HOME OF THE U-2 SPY PLANE— BLACKBIRD AND SR-1 (I GATHERED BY THIS THAT VINCENT CERTAINLY KNEW HIS PLANES AS I WAS FAMILIAR WITH THESE NAMES). THERE WAS A MAP ON THE VIDEO (IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT) AND IT SHOWED WHERE THIS BASE WAS LOCATED WHICH WAS NEAR BROOM LAKE. HE POINT TO A YELLOW-MARKED AREA.

ASKED BY ATTORNEY JOHNSTON ON THE VIDEO/"WHAT WERE YOUR DUTIES AT THIS BASE?", VINCENT REPLIED THAT HE WAS THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR FOR BASE FLIGHTS.

VINCENT SAID HE SERVED OUT HIS RETIREMENT THERE. HE THEN WENT TO LONG BEACH AND GOT A JOB WITH A CPA FIRM. HE THEN WENT TO WICHITA, KANSAS AND A CPA FIRM AND RETIRED IN 1989 WHICH HE SAID WAS "AFTER 22 YEARS SERVICE".

ATTORNEY JOHNSTON ASKED VINCENT WHAT PROMPTED HIM TO COME FORWARD ON WHAT HE KNEW. HE SAID HE READ ABOUT THE RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS AND THE CREATION OF THE ASSASSINATIONS RECORDS REVIEW BOARD AND THIS SPARKED HIS DESIRE TO COME FORTH.

VINCENT SAID HE TALKED TO CHANNEL 10 (TV) ABOUT THIS (I ASSUME THIS IS IN WICHITA) AND THEN

CALLED CONGRESSMAN GLICKMAN WHO WAS HEAD OF THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. AFTER THIS VINCENT MET WITH CHANNEL 10'S LARRY HADELBERG AND JOHNSTON SAW THE VIDEO OF THIS. THAT IS HOW JOHNSTON AND VINCENT MET.

AT THE END OF THE VIDEO VINCENT AGAIN REFERRED TO THE OSWALD LOOK-ALIKE. HE SAID OF THE 2 MEN WHO GOT ON THE PLANE THE SHORT ONE WAS ABOUT 5'6" WITH BLACK HAIR AND THE BIGGER MAN WAS MORE "CUBAN" LOOKING.

JOHNSTON SAID HE THOUGHT WHAT VINCENT HAD TO SAY WAS "TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE" AND JOHNSTON IS REPRESENTING VINCENT AS A CLIENT. JOHNSTON SAID HE HAD FILED A FOIA SUIT (FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT[redacted]) WITH THE CIA AND THAT THE REQUEST WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THEM BUT NOTHING HAPPENED SINCE. THIS SUIT WAS FILED, JOHNSTON SAID, A YEAR AGO.

THIS COMPLETES THE VIDEO AND STATEMENTS OR COMMENTS MADE BY JOHNSTON AFTER THE VIDEO PRESENTATION.

ANALYSIS BY HAL VERB

DEBRA CONWAY INVITED ME TO VIEW THE VIDEO AND SAID SHE SELECTED ONLY CERTAIN PERSONS TO ATTEND AND NO OTHERS. AS I STATED ABOVE SHE ALLOWED PAUL HALLER TO ATTEND AND HE DID. PAUL MAY HAVE TAKEN NOTES SO HE CAN ADD TO WHAT I'VE WRITTEN OR CORRECT ANY ERRORS I MAY HAVE MADE.

I KNEW ATTORNEY JOHNSTON FROM BEFORE (WE HAD MET IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AT A COPA CONFERENCE WHICH, I BELIEVE, WAS IN 1994. WE EXCHANGED CARDS AND DISCUSSED THE CASE. AS I RECALL HE KNEW OF WEISBERG'S WORK AND MAY HAVE WRITTEN HIM. WHEN I MET HIM AT COPA HE TOLD ME HE WAS REPRESENTING A CLIENT RELATING TO

ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO, IF I RECALL, WITH THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE AND THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE. AS I RECALL JOHNSTON SAID HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO REVEAL WHAT HIS CLIENT WAS SAYING AND, OF COURSE, I HONORED THAT CONFIDENCE AND DIDN'T BRING IT UP.

IN SO FAR AS MY ANALYSIS IS CONCERNED I BELIEVE I CAN SAY THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE EVENTS MR. VINCENT WAS ENGAGED IN IT COULD POSSIBLY REFER TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON ACTING ON HIS BELIEF IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION THAT A CONSPIRACY AND POSSIBLE COUP-DE-TAT WAS IN THE ACT OF TAKING PLACE AND HE INSTITUTED MEASURES TO GUARD AGAINST THIS POSSIBILITY. WHAT VINCENT WENT THROUGH COULD HAVE OCCURRED WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS BUT, OF COURSE, NOT IN THE SAME WAY.

WE KNOW THAT IN THE LITERATURE PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS INDICATED CONSPIRATORIAL FEARS. TRUE ENOUGH HE PUT THE FEAR OF CONSPIRACY LINKING IT TO CASTRO OR POSSIBLY RUSSIA BUT IT IS MY BELIEF THIS WAS POLITICAL AGIT-PROP TO HIDE HIS VERY REAL FEARS AS TO WHO WAS BEHIND IT. IN THIS CASE LBJ WAS NOT "FAKING" HIS FEARS — BUT HE WAS FALSIFYING HIS BELIEFS AS TO THE NATURE OF THAT CONSPIRACY. IN NO WAY SHOULD MY ANALYSIS BE CONSTRUED AS SAYING LBJ WAS BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION AS I REJECT THIS AND HAVE REJECTED IT FOR DECADES.

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE FOIA REQUEST FROM THE CIA HAS PRODUCED NO RESULTS. MY FEELING IS THAT THEY CANNOT ACKNOWLEDGE ANYTHING ABOUT THEIRS (AND OTHER AGENCIES) ACTIONS CORROBORATING A BELIEF A CONSPIRACY WAS IN PROGRESS.

AS A FINAL NOTE — YOU'LL NOTE MY REFERENCE TO THE D-24 TIME FIGURE & WHY IT COULD'VE BEEN QUOTED AS SUCH. ANY IDEAS ON THIS OR ARE THERE OTHER ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS?